

## INTRODUCTION OF THE RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS ACT

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Responsible Ownership of Public Lands Act with Representatives EMANUEL, RAHALL and HINCHEY. At a time when our constituents are paying more than \$4 per gallon at the pump, oil companies are sitting on millions of acres of land that they hold the drilling rights to but are not producing on. They need to either use it or lose it.

There's a myth that Republicans and Big Oil are perpetuating: that oil companies don't have access to enough places to drill for oil, that we need to allow drilling off our beaches on the East and West coast and in our most pristine places such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. However, this argument is nothing more than a drilling decoy.

The reality is that roughly 80 percent of offshore oil and gas reserves are located in areas where drilling is already allowed. Moreover, oil and gas companies right now own the drilling rights to 68 million acres offshore and onshore that they are not even using. These oil companies, who are raking in record profits, are not producing oil or gas on the vast majority of public land under their control. Offshore, Big Oil is producing on only about 23 percent of the land they hold, while onshore, companies are producing on roughly 27 percent of the acres to which they hold the drilling rights. Apparently Big Oil is more interested in pumping up prices and pumping up their own profits rather than pumping more oil.

Indeed, while Exxon Mobil has increased spending on exploration and drilling by \$3 billion over the last five years, it has increased spending on schemes to prop up the price of its stock by nearly \$26 billion per year during that same time period. Meanwhile, Exxon spent only \$10 million investing in developing renewable technologies last year.

The Responsible Ownership of Public Lands Act would assess an escalating fee over time on land energy companies have leased but are not using for production. This fee would be a mere \$5 per acre per year for the first three years of non-production but then increase to \$25 per acre for the fourth year and \$50 per acre in the fifth year and any subsequent years, providing a strong incentive for the oil companies to stop hoarding these leases and start using them.

The revenue raised from these fees will go towards developing renewable energy and investing in energy efficiency that will reduce our dependence on oil and reduce energy prices for American Consumers. The revenue will also be used to fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps permanently reduce energy bills for low income families by making their homes more energy efficient.

With oil companies continuing to sit on these millions of acres as the price of gas skyrockets, it is time to tell Big Oil to start producing or start paying. Big Oil is trying to play Uncle Sam for Uncle Sucker and we're not going to allow it.

## THE PASSING OF PAT TOBIN, FOUNDER OF TOBIN &amp; ASSOCIATES

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it was with great sorrow that I learned of the loss of my dear friend, Pat Tobin.

Pat was the Founder and CEO of Tobin and Associates, one of the most prominent minority, female-owned public relations firms whose clientele included celebrities, entertainment companies, non-profit/political organizations and national/international corporations.

Pat was more than an astute business woman, she was a "people person." She always had a big, beautiful smile that graced her face at all times. She was the epitome of "grace under pressure."

Pat was a mover and shaker in the public relations industry. She was a founder of the National Black Public Relations Society and a committed member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

She was a dedicated activist for causes that impacted minorities, women and youth and she secured financial support from corporations and philanthropic organizations for a variety of important initiatives. She was selfless and dedicated in everything she did. She was regarded as a standard bearer for public relations professionals of all races due to her innovative, hard working and compassionate nature.

One of her NABJ colleagues wrote the following poem about Pat:

I will not mourn Pat Tobin.

I will not be sad.

I will not let her passing depress me.

Instead I will continue to use the model she shared for life's personal journey.

I will take the attitude that personal and professional setbacks are an opportunity to make one-self stronger.

I will look at seemingly insurmountable road-blocks as mental, emotional and sometimes physical challenges as opportunities to become a force to be reckoned with.

I will choose to be what she believed all of us are capable of.

I extend my most heartfelt condolences to Pat's family, her colleagues, her many close friends in Los Angeles and around the country. She will be sorely missed.

## A TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARIE LANE

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the dedication, unwavering service and steadfast commitment of Rosemarie Lane to the veterans of Maine.

Rosemarie was born in Brooklyn, New York. She joined the Army at age 19. She served in France and Germany, and volunteered to serve in Vietnam. She retired in 1986 as a Master Sergeant.

Her service to our country is not limited to the military. She recently retired from the Inter-

nal Revenue Service after many years of dedicated public service.

As a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rosemarie has served as Post Commander and District 9 Commander. She was elected the 2003–2004 State Commander for the VFW Department of Maine, giving her the distinction as the first female VFW State Commander in New England. Since completing her term as State Commander, she has continued to serve the VFW on its National Legislative Committee.

Rosemarie is a staunch advocate for veterans, working tireless hours defending the rights and benefits she and her fellow veterans have earned. She embodies the spirit, commitment, and passion that all veterans' advocates should possess.

I can always trust that Rosemarie will tell me exactly what she believes. I value her guidance, her candor, and her friendship. Through her work, she has brought honor and credit to herself, her family, her community, the VFW and her Nation. I extend my sincere thank you to her for her many years of service on behalf of our veterans.

## TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL RANDAL R. CASTRO

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me recognize the service of Major General Randal R. Castro as his career comes to an end after 33 years of dedicated service in the United States Army.

Major General Castro began his distinguished career upon graduation from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York in 1975, where he received his bachelor's degree. In addition to a master's degree in civil engineering from Stanford University, his military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the U.S. Naval War College where he earned a master's degree in national security and strategic studies and subsequently served as a Professor.

During his 33 years of service to the nation, Major General Castro held a variety of command and staff assignments. These range from the platoon to the army level, held engineer battalion and brigade command, served as Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific and South Atlantic Engineer Divisions, and served as Special Assistant to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Prior to assuming his current duties, Major General Castro served concurrently as Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Commanding General, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center, also at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he oversaw the Army's Engineer, Military Police and Chemical Schools.

Major General Castro's decorations and awards include: the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit (with three oak leaf clusters); Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters); Army Commendation Medal (with four oak leaf clusters); Navy Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; and the Parachutist Badge.